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Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Joint report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council

Summary

The present report has been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. In accordance with the request from Member States for greater harmonization and coordination, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) present, for the first time, a joint report on progress towards implementing resolution 59/250. This report demonstrates the level of cooperation between UNDP and UNFPA in a number of areas mandated by the resolution, both jointly and as part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The first section of the report addresses joint UNDP/UNFPA implementation of resolution 59/250; the following two sections address specific UNDP and UNFPA activities, including resource mobilization. The report concludes with a joint UNDP/UNFPA recommendation.

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I. Joint UNDP/UNFPA implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Capacity development

1. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) working group on capacity development, in which both the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) participate, is defining a framework that will enable United Nations country teams to engage in structured capacity development for national counterparts. This is essential if developing countries are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The working group is developing a system-wide matrix; mapping potential niches for the United Nations in country-level capacity-development initiatives; and compiling an inventory of existing capacity-development tools. By mid-2006, the tools will become part of the operational methodologies for use by United Nations country teams.

2. Capacity development is at the core of the UNFPA mandate and is an overarching strategy of its multi-year funding framework (MYFF). The 2004-2007 MYFF identified four interactive programme strategies (advocacy and policy dialogue; building and using a knowledge base; promoting, strengthening and coordinating partnerships; and developing systems for improving performance) that converge to develop the national capacities of programme countries in population-related issues. Many country offices have developed capacity-development initiatives through their regular assistance programmes, often focusing on human resources training.

3. In a number of countries, UNFPA has engaged in sector-wide approaches, particularly in the health sector, where it pools the resources of its programme with those of other development partners. This modality places a premium on national capacity development because it relies heavily on nationally defined outcomes and national ownership. At the corporate level, UNFPA has undertaken a major initiative on reproductive health commodity security, to be implemented initially in 15 countries. Through this initiative, UNFPA supports national efforts to enhance national capacity and systems in logistics, forecasting, procurement and the monitoring of reproductive health commodities.

4. The work of UNDP in capacity development contributes to wider UNDG efforts by helping countries articulate poverty reduction strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals. It also contributes to national and local capacity development strategies that are part of poverty reduction strategies. In decision 2005/26 of 23 June 2005, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board approved the use of target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) 1.1.2 funding to support capacity-building efforts.

5. Within the UNDG, UNDP works in capacity measurement; common approaches to capacity-development strategies and direct budget support; and sector-wide approaches. In Southern and Eastern Africa, UNDP supports national

policies and programmes to improve the management capacity of Governments to enable them to better negotiate, coordinate and manage funding to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including through direct budget support, sustainable debt management and remittances. These efforts also include independent monitoring and peer-review mechanisms.

Information technology and knowledge sharing

6. UNDP seeks to expand its knowledge networks and communities in order to strengthen the knowledge management dimension of the United Nations by developing and implementing an inter-agency model for knowledge sharing. UNDP has expanded one of its own subthematic networks, the human rights policy network, known as HuriTALK, to serve as the knowledge-sharing and capacity-building tool on mainstreaming human rights in the United Nations system.

7. At the heart of the UNFPA knowledge-sharing strategy are knowledge assets, used to capture, synthesize and share experiential knowledge within the organization. To date, UNFPA has launched 10 knowledge assets on topics of corporate priority, including sector-wide approaches, obstetric fistulas, the quality of sexual and reproductive health care, population and housing censuses, and reproductive health commodity security.

Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, transaction costs and efficiency

8. UNDP and UNFPA contribute actively to UNDG efforts to respond to requests from Member States to simplify and harmonize programme and operational procedures. These efforts gained momentum following the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness adopted in March 2005. In July 2005, UNDP and UNFPA, along with their UNDG partners, adopted an action plan to implement the Paris Declaration. The plan addresses the alignment of the work of the United Nations with national development plans; the strengthening of national capacities in a changing aid environment; and increased efforts to strengthen and use national systems.

9. The UNDG programme group, chaired by UNFPA, organized an inter-agency workshop in June 2005 to learn lessons from country offices that had participated in the common programming process and to identify measures to further simplify procedures, while recognizing the need for consultation and accountability. At the request of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, UNDP and UNFPA, in consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), presented a report at the annual session 2005 of the Executive Board on measures to simplify the country programme preparation and approval process. In decision 2005/28 of 23 June 2005, the Board requested the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to present a report at the annual session 2006, elaborated jointly with UNICEF, on possible options to further improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure.

10. In response to strong calls from Member States, United Nations organizations are ensuring that United Nations country teams are well positioned in a changing aid environment in which sector-wide approaches and budget support arrangements are a growing feature. In February 2005, the UNDG endorsed a common UNDG position on the role of the United Nations in sector support. The UNDG action plan adopted after the Paris High-level Forum will follow up on commitments made on

harmonization and alignment. The plan advises United Nations country teams of their role in the new aid environment and serves as a tool to monitor the UNDG response. The UNDG programme group is developing additional guidance for United Nations country teams. Among other measures, the UNDG agencies will ensure that their rules and regulations are amended, wherever necessary, to allow their full participation in new aid modalities, including budget support.

11. In April 2005, the UNDG launched a cash transfer framework that is consistent with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and that seeks to reduce transaction costs for national partners. The UNDG has developed a strategy for its roll-out, closely linked to the roll-out of common country programming tools.

12. The UNDG working group on joint programming has established a database of joint programmes based on information provided by country offices and headquarters. The database contains information on approximately 150 joint programmes, over 30 of which began in 2005. Users may search and query joint programme information by country, participating agencies, managing agency, funding modality and theme.

13. The UNDG working group on joint programming also oversees a review of joint programme experiences conducted with a number of countries. By November 2005, 15 countries had agreed to take part, with 18 joint programmes to be reviewed. The reviews are conducted locally in collaboration with United Nations resident coordinator offices and United Nations country teams. They focus on the process of joint programme development and implementation, including efficiency, effectiveness, transaction costs, management and coordination arrangements. A comprehensive report with results from the review will be available in early 2006.

14. UNDP and UNFPA, through the UNDG working group on the joint office model, chaired by UNFPA, continue work on rationalizing the presence of the UNDG Executive Committee agencies in countries where their combined presence is small, and where the representational, staffing and support costs of agencies are often excessive in proportion to their programme budgets.

15. Pursuant to thorough consultations, and following a review by the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP of the draft common country programme document for Cape Verde, the UNDG Executive Committee agencies will pilot the joint office model in Cape Verde beginning in January 2006. Under the joint office model, individual offices will be unified into a single United Nations office, with a common country programme that encompasses the activities of all participating UNDG Executive Committee agencies. The head of the joint office, who will also serve as the United Nations resident coordinator, will represent participating agencies.

Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development

Common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

16. Recognizing that high-quality national plans and strategies such as poverty reduction strategy papers are key to sustainable development, recent revisions to the guidelines on the common country assessment and the United Nations Development

Assistance Framework (UNDAF) now stipulate that where national processes cover relevant issues, common country assessment exercises may not be necessary. In other countries, common country assessments build on or contribute to ongoing country analytical work, such as that used for poverty reduction strategy papers. In 2005, 33 countries launched common country assessment exercises.

17. To facilitate programmatic coherence, the UNDG Executive Committee agencies requested United Nations country teams to review the timing of their programme cycles and, where necessary, to readjust them to national cycles. The role of the UNDAF as the basis for one coherent United Nations country programme may be strengthened further through the proposal to adopt a single UNDAF and its results matrix in lieu of multiple country programme documents. The UNDG programme group is currently examining this issue and will present a proposal to the UNDG in 2006.

18. To ensure the quality of common country assessments and the UNDAF, the UNDG developed a quality support and assurance system in which UNDP and UNFPA are active partners. Members reviewed the UNDAF documents completed in 2005, prepared 5 UNDAF good practice notes and enumerated 10 lessons from the review. The UNDG forwarded these to United Nations country teams scheduled to begin their UNDAF exercises in September 2005.

Resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams

19. In 2004, the UNDG trained 50 resident coordinators, 35 of whom were new to the resident coordinator function. In 2005, 23 new resident coordinators received training: 7 were female; 11 were from organizations other than UNDP; and 12 were from programme countries. These results reflect the increased attention given to the selection of resident coordinators and the increased awareness of the need for United Nations organizations to work together more effectively.

20. As called for in General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, the UNDG is developing an accountability framework for resident coordinators, along with systems for mutual resident coordinator and United Nations country team performance appraisal. These reinforce the notion of the resident coordinator as the principal United Nations representative in a country, while recognizing the mandates and representational needs of each member of the United Nations country team. The UNDG is piloting a web-based, reciprocal 180-degree assessment tool for resident coordinators and United Nations country team members as part of an integrated performance appraisal system.

21. The UNDG working group on common premises and services, chaired by UNFPA in 2005, has provided guidance to United Nations country teams and, where appropriate, undertaken missions to launch the common services programme. To facilitate the management of the programme, the UNDG developed a common services management system. In 2005, the efforts of the working group focused on renovating existing United Nations houses and common premises and examining proposals for new ones. Ten of these proposals are at pre-feasibility or feasibility stages. The group also explored possibilities for subnational offices, a number of which were established.

Gender

22. UNDP continued to implement a two-pronged approach to achieve gender equality: mainstreaming gender and promoting women's empowerment. UNDP emphasized the strategic importance of gender mainstreaming in its 2004-2007 MYFF, which identifies the promotion of gender equality as one of the drivers of development effectiveness. By 2010, UNDP senior managers will be held accountable for achieving a 50/50 gender balance at all levels.

23. UNDP has embarked on a major gender mainstreaming capacity-building initiative for UNDP staff in 45 country offices, 4 regional centres and 5 headquarters units, financed through the gender thematic trust fund. The gender mapping exercise, undertaken in all UNDP country offices and in all areas of work, has provided a systematic framework to deepen the analysis and advance gender mainstreaming in all UNDP interventions. It also revealed that over 60 UNDP country offices are working in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to overcome gender gaps. In 2005, following an evaluation of its gender activities, UNDP embarked on a management review of its policies, which will be discussed at the first regular session 2006 of the Executive Board.

24. UNFPA seeks to mainstream gender in all its interventions — a fundamental requirement in dealing with the issues that derive from its mandate. In addition, UNFPA has identified gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of the three goals of its current MYFF. UNFPA advocates the integration of gender issues in broader national development frameworks, such as poverty reduction strategy papers, sector-wide approaches and other national interventions.

25. UNFPA supports data-collection and research activities to create awareness of gender-based violence and works with partners to establish national mechanisms to monitor and reduce gender-based violence. It also advocates the inclusion of gender needs in humanitarian assistance. UNFPA supports culturally sensitive approaches and the development of appropriate programming tools to promote gender equality and human rights within reproductive health programmes. UNFPA is an active partner in the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and advocates the empowerment of women and girls, and the involvement of men and boys, in efforts to decrease the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS.

26. In September 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, in which UNDP and UNPFA are full members, issued guidelines for interventions on gender-based violence in humanitarian settings, focusing on prevention and the response to sexual violence. The guidelines will facilitate the establishment of a multisectoral coordinated approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergency settings.

South-South cooperation

27. As indicated in the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its fourteenth session[1] and in the reports of the Administrator of UNDP to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (SSC/14/2), the United Nations system has increased the use of South-South cooperation, focusing

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/60/39).

on institution-building and networking, information support, resource mobilization and improved management capacities.

28. In January 2005, the Executive Board endorsed the third UNDP cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2005-2007), which establishes three platforms: (a) support for policy dialogue and follow-up to major intergovernmental conferences, with an emphasis on mainstreaming South-South cooperation as a driver of development effectiveness; (b) the creation of an enabling environment and public-private partnership mechanisms for sustained South-South business collaboration and technology exchanges; and (c) support for stronger South-specific systems to manage and share development knowledge. The UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States has sponsored 24 South-South programmes involving 12 countries. The programmes focus on exchanges between Arab and African countries on policy and institutional reform, capacity development and the transfer of technology.

29. UNFPA efforts in South-South cooperation have provided training opportunities in one country for technical staff from another country on issues such as obstetric fistulas, improving access to reproductive health services, and curricula development at tertiary and secondary levels, including the training of subregional teams for reproductive health. UNFPA has emphasized exchanges that incorporate a culturally sensitive approach. These include programmes between Egypt and Indonesia to share experiences on incorporating culturally sensitive reproductive health issues into national programmes.

30. UNFPA also supports efforts to increase cooperation in areas related to its mandate. Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania are considering harmonizing policies, programmes and strategies for reproductive health within the framework of the East African Community. Thailand has further developed its role in assisting countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion to strengthen their policies and strategies on reproductive health and HIV prevention. UNFPA facilitates an initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil to provide technical expertise on population and reproductive health issues to other developing countries, including assistance to Haiti on sexual violence and to Paraguay on the demographic analysis and management of census information.

Transition from relief to development

31. The UNDG and the World Bank collaborated closely in supporting two post-conflict needs assessment missions in Somalia and the Sudan. The Sudan joint assessment mission was the basis for a Norwegian-led donor conference in April 2005.

32. UNDP has taken steps to provide a set of operational and policy support measures to strengthen and rationalize the transition from relief to development. During the last biennium, UNDP increased threefold its contribution of core resources to the funds allocated to the resident coordinator system. This permitted the creation of a special $2.25 million fund to support countries in transition from relief to development. In 2005, these funds provided some 20 countries with strategic planning and coordination support for recovery and transition. They were also used to support technical missions.

33. The UNFPA rapid response to emergencies includes support for assessment missions, data collection and the immediate shipment of supplies and equipment to enable pregnant women to deliver safely, to treat cases of sexual and gender-based violence, and to prevent HIV transmission. UNFPA supports treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and counselling for traumatized women and their families in refugee camps and affected areas through projects that address the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. As soon as situations have stabilized, UNFPA lays the groundwork for transition and reconstruction by rehabilitating damaged service-delivery stations; training service providers and community workers; and restoring reproductive health services to promote safe motherhood, adolescent reproductive health and access to condoms.

34. The UNDG worked closely with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in supporting the creation of a common United Nations support office for the tsunami recovery phase in Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka. This office, located in Aceh, Indonesia, is under the leadership of the United Nations Recovery Coordinator for Aceh and Nias. In Maldives and Sri Lanka, United Nations country teams have prepared draft transitional strategies outlining United Nations system support to official recovery and reconstruction plans. The process is also under way in Indonesia.

Evaluation of operational activities for development

35. In 2005, UNDP and its associated funds and programmes completed 280 evaluations, conducted in 60 per cent of all programme countries. The total value coverage for UNDP projects and programmes through the outcome evaluations conducted during the 2004 reporting period was estimated at $380 million. UNDP provides quality assurance in evaluations by designing evaluation frameworks and plans in the context of the UNDAF and country programme action plans, while maintaining coverage and quality in the face of increasing demand. UNDP is developing a new system for quality assurance of all mandated evaluations to enhance accountability.

36. UNDP intensified efforts in 2005 to foster learning from evaluation and capacity development. It organized a series of regional workshops to discuss the evaluation function, exchange practices and contribute to an evaluation policy. UNDP also provided evaluation orientation and training to several countries that were initiating development assistance programmes.

37. In 2005, UNFPA conducted its first meta-evaluation, aimed at establishing a baseline for improvements in the quality and consistency of UNFPA-funded evaluations. Initial results indicated that improvements are needed to enable UNFPA to use its evaluation work to design evidence-based strategies to achieve UNFPA strategic goals.

38. UNFPA also reviewed the quality of gender mainstreaming in its materials. The review found that between 1997 and 2005, UNFPA had refined its approach to gender mainstreaming and had produced high-quality materials to guide its field staff in this area. However, gender mainstreaming has not always been consistent over the time period or within the thematic areas that were reviewed. UNFPA is preparing comprehensive recommendations to address this issue.

B. Follow-up to international conferences and the Millennium Development Goals

39. In the context of the five-year review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] UNFPA focused on highlighting the linkage between the implementation of the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, child mortality, gender equality and empowerment of women, and poverty eradication. World leaders recognized this close relationship in the 2005 World Summit Outcome by calling for the achievement of universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, and calling on countries to integrate this goal into national development strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

40. UNFPA also participated in and supported the 10-year follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). UNFPA inputs to the review included co-sponsoring online discussions on women's health; preparing and disseminating advocacy materials outlining the linkages between the Cairo and Beijing agendas; and supporting greater investments in women's health, particularly reproductive health.

41. UNFPA supported and participated in the 10-year follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995) and in the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS convened to review the 2005 goals set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[3] adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session (June, 2001).

42. As coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals within the United Nations system, UNDP has been involved in global, regional and national advocacy activities regarding the Goals. The principal vehicle for implementing the core strategy has been the Millennium Development Goals support programme, financed through the Millennium Trust Fund. Early in 2005, the Millennium Project carried out an ambitious agenda of research and analysis, and produced *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*.[4] UNFPA participated actively in the work of the Millennium Project through its task forces, particularly those on poverty and maternal health. UNFPA also seconded a senior adviser on sexual and reproductive health to the Millennium Project and provided technical inputs in the area of needs assessments.

43. The Millennium Project initiated country-level advisory work in eight pilot countries in 2004 and assisted United Nations country teams in applying its research and findings. It also contributed to a Millennium Development Goals training module developed by the UNDG. UNDP and the Millennium Project are launching an integrated package of services to support the preparation and implementation of national development strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[4] New York, United Nations Project, 2005. Published by Earthscan, London.

44. As a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, UNDP and UNFPA, together with their UNDG partners, are preparing a common plan designed to support countries with respect to their adopting, by 2006, and implementing national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

45. The second component of the Millennium Development Goals support programme involves working with civil society. An example is the Global Call to Action against Poverty, a worldwide campaign led by a coalition of more than 900 civil society organizations from developed and developing countries in support of the Millennium Development Goals. National campaigns have also been organized under the aegis of the global campaign.

46. The increasing number of country reports on implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the dissemination of their findings have played a key role in bringing the Millennium Development Goals to the attention of political leaders and the general public. By March 2005, 93 countries, ranging from high middle-income countries to least developed countries, had produced country reports. Since then, some countries have produced second reports (Albania, Armenia, Bolivia, Cambodia, Lithuania, Mauritius and Senegal), and even third reports (Cameroon and Viet Nam). The quality of the reports continues to improve, with greater emphasis placed on disaggregating national averages by sex, income and age, and on initiating activities at the local level, as in Albania, Cameroon and Honduras.

II. UNDP activities

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

47. Total UNDP resources reached $4.1 billion in 2004, the highest level ever, up from $3.2 billion in 2003. In 2004, regular resources income increased for the fourth consecutive year, reaching $842 million, up from $634 million in 2000. Ten members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) increased their core contributions in local currency terms to UNDP regular resources; three did so by more than 10 per cent. This level of contributions is consistent with the objectives set forth in the UNDP 2004-2007 MYFF and represents an encouraging trend towards achieving the overall target of $1.1 billion by 2007.

48. It also signals renewed support from Member States for a United Nations development arm that benefits from adequate and predictable funding. While regular resources income remained volatile with respect to exchange-rate fluctuations — more than one third of the increase in resources available in 2004 was attributable to local currency appreciation vis-à-vis the United States dollar — adherence to multi-year funding mechanisms is expected to enhance income predictability.

49. Non-core resources also experienced steady growth. In 2004, third party co-financing by bilateral donors and multilateral organizations reached $1.7 billion, up

from $1.1 billion in 2003. Local resources channelled through UNDP by programme countries in support of their own development priorities rose by 20 per cent to $1.2 billion. In the presence of expanding aid mechanisms available to programme countries, these contributions signal confidence in UNDP and in its capacity and effectiveness.

Crisis prevention and recovery

50. Recognizing the key role of communities in sustaining several types of post-conflict assistance, UNDP launched an integrated community development programme in Burundi and a similar initiative, the Srebrenica regional recovery programme, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNDP collaborates with the Government of Uganda in supporting a transition and recovery programme for northern Uganda designed to reintegrate internally displaced persons.

51. UNDP has provided assistance for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts during the last two years. Its rapid response mechanism has allowed UNDP to provide prompt support for ex-combatants in locations such as Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNDP has worked with United Nations partners in developing joint programmes for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Haiti and the Sudan.

52. *Sustaining peace in post-conflict situations.* In 2005, UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the United Nations Secretariat developed an innovative, integrated United Nations presence for Sierra Leone — the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone — that will replace the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in January 2006. Created by the Security Council on 31 August 2005 (resolution 1620 (2005)), the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone will be headed by an executive representative of the Secretary-General who will also serve as resident representative of UNDP and United Nations resident coordinator.

53. In Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Sudan, UNDP has supported the reform and rebuilding of the justice and security sectors, and has emphasized developing the capacity of national and local institutions to work with civic, traditional and community leaders. UNDP provided technical and logistic support to the truth and reconciliation commissions in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, and to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. It also supports rebuilding and reconciliation efforts at the community level in Côte d'Ivoire.

54. *Building national capacities for conflict prevention.* UNDP supports, in collaboration with several United Nations partners, a programme designed to build national capacity to prevent conflicts. This programme has assisted Governments and national stakeholders in building their capacity to peacefully settle disputes.

55. Mindful that illicit flows of small arms and light weapons can be persistent threats to peace and security in many developing countries, UNDP has supported the efforts of 80 countries in implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.[5] Among these countries were Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Peru, Serbia and Montenegro and Uganda.

[5] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), para. 24.

56. Over the past two years, UNDP has assisted Mauritania, Senegal and Uganda in establishing national mine action programmes. In addition, in collaboration with other United Nations organizations, UNDP has helped to establish a completion initiative to resolve, over a three- to four-year period, landmine issues in various countries. UNDP promotes South-South cooperation through the mine action exchange programme. UNDP also helped to launch a forum of mine-affected countries that enables them to have a collective voice in the international arena.

57. *Building national capacities for disaster response and prevention.* Given the degree to which natural disasters have disrupted development efforts, UNDP intensified its efforts in 2005 to build national capacity for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, drawing on lessons from the Asian tsunami and other natural disasters.

B. Cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions

58. UNDP continues its close cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions. The chief economists of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) participated in the United Nations experts group that advised the Millennium Project. The most noteworthy feature of this dialogue was a series of technical workshops that helped to advance a common methodological approach to needs assessments for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The experts also reached agreement on a common approach to assessing needs in the health sector. Discussions with senior IMF staff focused on designing macroeconomic frameworks consistent with achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

59. In 2004, in recognition of their growing partnership, UNDP and the World Bank signed a memorandum of understanding on financial management regarding grant agreements. In the fourth quarter of 2005, the Administrator of UNDP participated, for the first time, in the meetings of the Development Committee. This cooperation helped to unify the development community around the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing: (a) the need to scale up investments; (b) the increasing relevance of poverty reduction strategies based on the Millennium Development Goals; and (c) the need for extensive collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the UNDG on statistics and statistical capacity-building to monitor the Millennium Development Goals.

III. UNFPA activities

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

60. In 2005, regular resources were expected to exceed $350 million for the first time in the history of UNFPA. As of 1 October 2005, 135 countries had contributed nearly $348.7 million to regular resources. They include Australia, Austria,

Belgium, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

61. The growth has been due primarily to increased contributions from 11 donors (Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland) and the favourable exchange rate of the euro and other currencies against the United States dollar. In 2004, 166 donor countries made pledges to UNFPA; the same range of donors is expected for 2005. The large number of Governments contributing to UNFPA demonstrates their confidence in the work of the Fund.

62. Income in 2004 to other resources was provided through co-financing arrangements ($131.1 million) and other arrangements ($43.4 million). Other resources included co-financing (trust funds, thematic trust funds, cost-sharing and other funds); the junior professional officers programme; and procurement services. UNFPA received 49 multi-year pledges in 2004, up from 20 in 2003. As of 1 October 2005, UNFPA had received 47 multi-year pledges. The increase in contributions to regular resources will enable UNFPA to allocate its resources to priority countries in areas such as reproductive health, gender equity and women's empowerment, and in programmes to improve maternal health and combat HIV/AIDS.

Country-level capacity of the United Nations system and regional support

63. As part of overall United Nations reform efforts, UNFPA is focusing on a stronger field presence to make development assistance more effective in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the triennial comprehensive policy review. UNFPA has strengthened its country offices, especially in Africa, enabling them to better assist in national capacity-building and to support programmes that respond to national priorities. UNFPA has established operations manager posts to oversee financial, human resources and logistic operations at the country level. UNFPA has also trained staff in key programme areas.

64. In response to country needs and in an effort to achieve better results in line with its strategic direction and United Nations reform, UNFPA is focusing on strengthening its regional presence and is moving towards the regionalization of some of its organizational units. This process offers an opportunity to further strengthen the capacity of country offices to support the needs of programme countries. The UNFPA Technical Advisory Programme continues to support capacity-building at country and regional levels and has been instrumental in supporting country office implementation of United Nations reform processes.

B. Strategic partnerships, including cooperation with the World Bank

65. Since 2003, the World Bank and UNFPA have collaborated within the framework of a joint action plan. The World Bank and UNFPA focal points worked closely to mainstream reproductive health within the agenda of the Millennium Development Goals, highlighting the linkages between the goals of the International

Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

66. In the context of its global campaign to end fistula, launched in 2003, UNFPA developed innovative partnerships with the private sector, including with Virgin Unite, the charitable arm of the Virgin Group of companies, and with Rainey Kelly Campbell and Roalfe/Young and Rubicam, a leading advertising agency. In February 2005, Virgin Unite and UNFPA, along with several other partners, collaborated in organizing a "fistula fortnight" — a two-week fistula advocacy, training and treatment event in Nigeria. Virgin Unite and Rainey Kelly Campbell and Roalfe/Young and Rubicam also provided in kind support for advocacy activities in Europe and northern Nigeria.

67. The United Nations Foundation, a strategic partner for UNFPA, has been instrumental in supporting the development of innovative approaches to improve the lives of adolescent girls and the quality of their sexual and reproductive health. The Foundation has also partnered with other organizations, such as the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Nike, to support UNFPA work in advocacy and on child marriage.

68. UNFPA collaborates closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) within the framework of the WHO-UNFPA strategic partnerships programme, aimed at improving sexual and reproductive health through the adoption of evidence-based guidelines that are updated regularly to reflect international scientific consensus. UNFPA and WHO conducted a number of regional workshops in 2005 and produced region-specific proposals.

IV. Joint UNDP/UNFPA recommendation

69. **The Executive Board may wish to take note of this report (E/2006/5-DP/2006/12-DP/FPA/2006/2), and transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.**